

AP GOVERNMENT Summer Assignment

1. Read the book *Politics Hardball: How Politics is Played by One who Knows the Game* by Chris Mathews. “*Hardball*, first published in 1988, is like a modern version of Machiavelli's *The Prince*, only much more richly illustrated, with anecdotes drawn from talk-show host Chris Mathews's stint as a congressional staffer (where he worked for, among others, Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill).

I know Mathews is very liberal and thus has a liberal bias, but this particular book is about political methods, not political issues.

After reading Chris Mathews' book, complete the following:

- Choose one quote or passage from six of the chapters. Analyze each quote. Make sure you explain what the quote means, the quote's importance to politics or government and how it applies today, and your personal opinion of the quote. **Make sure that they are quotes/passages that evoke a real response in you.** Each analysis should be about a half page, excluding the quote.
- Analyze the 2020 election in terms Mathews' political maxims. Discuss four of the maxims that you feel the candidates (Trump and Biden unless summer changes the complexion of the party's nominee) excelled at or the maxims at which they failed. **(In total 1 ½-2 pages double spaced)**

2. Read the following documents and summarize the important points or principles established within each document. The transcript of all of the documents are available online. Please write your own summaries. Then write a thesis statement for **each document** which responds to the following prompt in reference to the document:

The American form of government creates a tension between liberty and security.

- a. Declaration of Independence
- b. Articles of Confederation
- c. U.S. Constitution
- d. Federalist 10
- e. Federalist 51
- f. Federalist 70
- g. Federalist 78
- h. Brutus 1
- i. Letter from a Birmingham Jail